

Sir Baldwin Spencer  
Melbourne

Campelli

Nov 21 1921

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Dear Sir Baldwin

just a line from  
Campelli to let you know we are still in the  
land of Aborigines. Mr C + self are by ourselves  
just at the present time. Our stockman who was  
a young Englishman + a returned boy; would not  
comply with the new rules laid down by the  
New Administrator viz - to his own cooking -  
I am sorry that he G. J. Peter has gone; because  
he was a clean living young chap, no filthy  
language + he was kind to the natives. The time is  
passing + we are getting no younger. I have been  
trying to get you something for the museum;  
but have been so busy since I got back, that  
that I have had such little time to spare for any  
outside work. I got an Arocat here a while back  
and it is the only one that I had seen in this part  
+ is found in districts of 2 to 9 - I had two black  
Kangaroo skins, but they were destroyed by insects. The best  
lot of stuff that I sent, Mr Kurbshaw, mentioned in  
his letter, that the bat, with the peculiar growth

on his nose was a fruit eating bat. This is a wrong description, as it is a flesh eating bat. It will kill a rat, small birds & grasshoppers. We had a mob of them, <sup>living in our sheds</sup> & they made the place very dirty; with heads of birds, & feathers. I often see pairs in newspapers relating to the noise made at night & called by the papers, the M100-M100. Hearing the sound when out with the natives have asked them what made the noise; telling them that whites said a snake made that noise - Mitchell said that it was <sup>LUB-ER-LARBO</sup> Lub-er-larbo the mosquito hawk, or Nightjar. You know the one I mean. It flies from shade to shade when disturbed during the day & nearly always is found on the ground, generally in the shade of a fan palm. You remember we saw a good number of them, on our trip from Kupaloo to Brooker's Creek. The natives here tell me that sometimes the long thin black snake - MULLA-BU-BORNA. make a cooing noise, fairly loud during the coupling season. I am afraid that the natives are in for a rough time, under the present Administration. I had an interview with the Administrator & he told me to go on with the work, just as the work is almost done, I got notice that the wages of nine natives named on the time sheet, would not



be paid, nine natives at the great rate of 25/- per week, 20/- deducted from that for keep etc. I also got notice to work the station with two boys on wages, viz Quip 10/- per week + found - no gam allowed. and another boy 5/- per week - Any others employed would not be paid - Just fancy I have just finished a well 50 feet, + partly timbered, Cattle yards to hold a thousand head of cattle - A dip for cattle + all necessary yards gates, shed etc, that would cost the Government over £600 to get done by white labour. + then to get this order. I have written to the Acting Chief Protector and told him that these natives would have to be paid. I have not got his reply; but if Mr Urquhart, does not pay them willingly; I will bring the matter before the Minister. It would make a nice noise in the House, Slavery practised by Protectors in the N.T. under Mr Urquhart a late trooper in charge of black police of North Queensland. I will try all mild means to get these men (natives) their wages; but I will get it for them. They trusted me + done their work splendidly. I expect that it will mean my resignation, but that does not trouble me. By your Sir, it will be ten years,

next July, since you came to Campelli. It does not seem that long when looking back - Mrs Cahill & I often think of an overland trip with horses & we may take it in our heads to do this, next year. Start out from the Katherine & go out Willeroo, Victoria Downs, Wave Hill, & over to Halls Creek, then back to Wyndham. We would travel very slowly & get any birds <sup>skins</sup> etc on our way. & go along the W.A. coast, towards Broome. It would be a long journey & a final one in the bush for me. We often talk of this or a trip overland to Townsville, we have not finally made up our mind on the matter. Just as I am writing this, there is about a doz - little black children, having a bath of mango's and it do you good to see them. They all belong to the Koolunjoochee tribe. I have their parents carrying manure from our goat house, to the garden. The menu for dinner - Stewed goat, with cabbage carrots sweet potatoes, boiled in a five gallon drum. Damper, with tea - cows milk for drinking, Three Kerozine tins full of mango's, & watermelons.

Needless to say they are a bit sluggish for some time but lord how they did eat that stew, I forgot to say that the pot contained half a goat & they will have a simular blow out for supper -



Nearly all the station boys are away at a  
 Sacred corroboree. - Old Marealmark, has recovered  
 from her long illness - & went with the others.  
 Very few children seem to be borne to the Kakados  
 tribe, yet a few miles east from here, every  
 camp has a good number of children.  
 The natives between Oapelli & the Railway line  
 are dying out rapidly, & before long, very few will  
 be left. A few days ago, I put a tombstone over  
 our dear old friend. The late W. G. Stretton. His  
 grave is about 150 yards, from the end of the lagoon  
 on high ground - About 500 yards from the station,  
 towards the hill. I made a substantial landmark -  
 using 20 bags stone & 30 sand and eight bags of cement, &  
 then a nice stone embedded into the concrete.  
 Now that the stone is up; we can see the grave quite  
 plainly from the station. I am planting a ring  
 of mango trees around the grave. I often think  
 of our camp on the Flora River & Bathurst Island.  
 Every time the islanders see me in Darwin, they yell  
 out Paddykel - & say which way nuther one white  
 fellow - meaning you. No doubt there is a great deal  
 to like in the natives, when one understands them.  
 Mrs Cahill joins me in wishing you & Lady Spencer  
 a bright & merry Christmas & a happy New Year and  
 many of them  
 yours truly Paddy Cahill